

## ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** February 11, 2016

**Agenda Item:** Classification of Exotic Wildlife ARM

**Division:** Enforcement

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 Min

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### **Background**

To be legally imported into Montana, exotic wildlife must be classified. A review committee evaluates petitions for such classifications. The committee - which includes FWP, the Montana Departments of Livestock, Agriculture, and Public Health and Human Services, a representative of the exotic pet trade, and a citizen with an interest in fish and wildlife makes recommendations to the Commission to classify exotic wildlife either as noncontrolled, controlled, or prohibited. Recommendations are based on:

- A. The environmental impacts caused by the animal if it is released or escapes from captivity, including ecological and economic impacts;
- B. The risk the animal would pose to health or safety of the public, wildlife or agriculture; and
- C. The ability to readily control and contain the animal in captivity.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

The Commission may, after appropriate public input, adopt by rule a list of noncontrolled, controlled, and prohibited exotic wildlife. If approved, the proposed rule changes will be published for public comment.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

The Commission can decide not to propose the recommendations by the Classification Review Committee.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

The Classification Review Committee recommends that the F&W Commission propose an amendment to the ARM rule to allow for the following classification of exotic wildlife:

- **Controlled**--The following exotic wildlife may be possessed in Montana with only a Controlled Species permit from Fish, Wildlife and Parks:
  - 1. *Potos flavus*- Kinkajou (Honey Bear)

### **Proposed Motion:**

I move that the Commission propose the amendment to the classification of exotic species ARM 12.6.2208 as recommended by the classification review committee.